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ERS NEWSLETTER

A Quarterly Newsletter for Economic Research Service Employees and Colleagues

Summer 1993

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Former Administrator's Letter—When The Time Comes

When my friend Tom Hady was approaching retirement he was asked how one knows when to retire. He answered, "When the time comes, you will know it."



USDA

My time has come. ERS has been good to me. I leave with warm memories, a grateful heart, and the normal regrets about things I might have done better. I also leave knowing that I have been associated with people who have made a valuable contribution to the public good.

Over the last few weeks, I have had the opportunity to visit with friends, old and new, in most of the ERS branches. We laughed over funny things that happened over the years, recalled names of colleagues who stirred good memories, and got acquainted when we didn't know each other very well. These visits reaffirmed what I already knew—there are very special people in ERS—bright, hard-working, caring, and committed to their work.

It is important to maintain that commitment—not to something called ERS, because the name and organizational form could change—but rather to the principle of providing enlightenment and understanding of important economic and social phenomena and of the economic and social consequences of alternative policies and courses of events. This is our most important contribution to the public good, whether it be in the form of research results, situation and outlook, staff analysis, or one of our many series of economic indicators. Common access to unbiased information and common understanding of economic cause and effect relationships are essential to ensuring that a market-oriented economy serves both the private interests of participating parties and the public interests of the larger society. Providing as much of that information and understanding as we can with the resources we have is our main job, and our greatest privilege.

USDA Secretary Espy's office has announced that Kitty Reichelderfer will assume the duties of acting administrator. ERS is in good hands! I am confident that Kitty and the other leaders and people of ERS will successfully meet the challenges of the years ahead.

I owe so much to so many . . . to my supervisors and mentors over the years, Herb Brown, Glen Barton, Neill Schaller, Burt Sundquist, Warren Bailey, Ernie Wiecking, and J.B. Penn, to name a few—to my administrators, Nate Koffsky, Louis Upchurch, Quentin West, and Ken Farrell, each one different but all strong leaders—and to good friends and colleagues too numerous to mention. I want to say a special word of thanks to my associates in the Office of the Administrator, the division directors and their associates, and to the branch chiefs and section leaders for their strong leadership. Finally, I want to thank Millie Evano and all the secretaries and statistical assistants who have supported me, directly and indirectly, over the years.

Marie and I are excited about our new life at Mississippi State University. Good people and new friends await us there. So, we move on, at peace with the past and eager for the future. Our feelings are one with the unknown poet who wrote: "Life's gifts are wondrous—and come to us when it is time."

Thanks again to each of you. It's been great. Ya'all come to see us, ya hear!



John Lee

Acting Administrator's Letter—*The Challenges Ahead*

The facts are plain and simple. The President's budget includes a 14-percent budget cut for ERS in FY 1994 (October 1993–September 1994) and an additional 11-percent cut in FY 1995. How we in ERS, our clients, and our colleagues adjust to the change is less obvious and anything but simple, since we have a range of choices.



A few choices have already been made to provide the framework within ERS for personal, professional, and agency adjustment. First, with 80-percent of our current budget in salaries and employee benefits, we faced for the immediate future the dilemma of having either a substantially smaller ERS staff with current levels of program support (training, travel, supplies, equipment, printing and publication, and external research support), or an only slightly smaller staff with substantially reduced levels of program support for that staff to pursue its responsibilities. The latter option was chosen for FY 1994. This reflects the fact that the expertise, energy, and diversity of backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives of the staff are the most highly valued elements of ERS. Please be assured that this also signals our intent to exhaust all other options before initiating a reduction in force at some later time.

Lower target staff levels have been established for each of the divisions and the intention is for these to be met as attrition occurs. In the longer run, hiring will not resume until a healthier balance is attained between staff levels and program support. This strategy has several implications. First, it appears that ERS will not be hiring any new staff for at least 4–5 years. This suggests that as people leave, their responsibilities will have to be assumed by other ERS staff. There will be considerable shifting around of staff, within and among the four program divisions, over the next few years. Most of the divisions currently exceed their target staff levels. Initial staff reassignments will likely be *within* divisions. When a division is below its target staff level, it has the option of filling positions with staff from other ERS divisions. In this case, these positions will be advertised to all ERS employees and reassignments will be made through mutual agreements of the divisions and the individuals.

Second, there simply will not be enough money to cover normal nonsalary expenses. This means that in the short run (at least through FY 1994) on-the-job training will be about the only opportunity for professional development of staff, travel will be more rare than common, computer equipment will neither be replaced nor updated, data purchases from other agencies and organizations must be curtailed, we will have to conserve miscellaneous supplies, and not even the most outstanding of ERS performers will receive a monetary performance bonus. This means, too, that, more than ever before, what research and analysis gets done *by* ERS is done *within* ERS. There will be little or no funds for cooperative research agreements with outside collaborators.

Third, ERS will no longer be able to maintain its current level of financial support as a "good citizen" in the agricultural social science professions or in efforts to enhance the diversity of professionals therein. ERS is

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fortunate to have been able to invest in the future of research and researchers by contributing partial funding towards a range of conferences (such as Tuskegee University's annual Professional Agricultural Workers Conference and the recent Conference on Farm Management Research Priorities), organizations (ranging from the American Agricultural Economics Association's Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics to the National Research Council's Committee on National Statistics), and consortia (including the International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium). For the near term, we will have to curtail financial support to many well-deserving efforts and live off our past investments. We retain our commitment to workforce diversity in ERS, but will have to focus our efforts on internal issues and on very long-term hiring possibilities.

The situation calls for exceptional creativity, flexibility, and forethought on the part of all ERS managers and staff. Creativity must be central in determining new ways to achieve the same quality of service as historically marks ERS, but with fewer resources. I hope you are all generating creative options for how to accomplish your goals with less support. Efficiency gains will be critical.

Flexibility will be necessary as people begin to shift within ERS, many to areas in which their intellectual interest might exceed their professional background. Each of us must remain ready and willing to take on some assignments, explore some areas analytically, or prepare some products unlike any for which our past positions may have included responsibility. Remember, this will open up new opportunities for some staff.

Forethought in how we best serve the public's needs is going to be critical in sorting out ERS' priorities. Some program areas will likely be eliminated or reduced. Balancing resources for traditional, well-respected programs with new demands for analytical input into high priority issues, such as food and consumer economics, water quality, and renewed interest in rural development, will be a formidable challenge.

As we make these adjustments, ERS must avoid turning inward. We are a *service* organization. Our future depends more than ever on being in touch with and responsive to the needs of the public and other government agencies. The current situation provides an opportunity for ERS to be more proactive in discovering and effectively meeting outside demands for information and analysis. In the spirit of reinventing government, we can become more client oriented. We can look again—with a fresh perspective—at our clientele. Are there demands for information and analysis which we could meet within current resource constraints? Are there other agencies or institutions whose mission would be enhanced by working with ERS? Are there new opportunities for leveraging resources by working together with other government agencies? Can others share the investment in research necessary to maintain a regular flow of high quality information?

There is no doubt in my mind that ERS can meet the challenges ahead and distinguish itself in the process. We continue to face uncertainty about where ERS will fit in a reorganized USDA. Secretary Espy's Task Force on Departmental Reorganization has begun its work. The Secretary chose not to fill the position of Assistant Secretary for Economics before the reorganization plan is announced. No matter what form the future USDA takes, ERS can continue to play an important role in providing timely, objective information for policy and program decisionmaking.

I invite you—ERS staff, clients, and colleagues—to share your ideas with me on how ERS can most effectively accomplish its mission of providing policy-relevant information on issues affecting agriculture and rural America. The times are turbulent and hold a great deal of uncertainty. However, the times also bring us the strongest incentive in recent memory to jointly focus on our priorities. Your input is important in that process.

A final note of credit and thanks to John Lee. My optimism about our ability to excel even as we weather program downsizing is due in large part to the high standards fostered under John's leadership. Those standards will continue to serve us well in the future.



Katherine Reichelderfer

ERS Working Relationships Are Important Aspect of Its Program

Economic and social problems facing society—and our government—are more complex and multidimensional than they once were. This greater complexity requires a more cooperative, coordinated approach across the functions of government agencies and traditional academic disciplines. As a result, ERS' involvement in cross-agency activities are increasingly important. These responsibilities evolve out of the four functions ERS performs in fulfilling its mission to provide socio-economic analysis of critical agricultural and rural issues facing society: (1) conducting policy-relevant research; (2) providing agricultural and country situation and outlook analysis; (3) developing economic indicators; and (4) responding to requests for analysis of specific issues from the Secretary of Agriculture, Congress, and other public decisionmakers.

Since ERS' mandate covers a broad set of issues affecting U.S. agriculture and rural America, the cooperative efforts cover a variety of topics. Individuals or teams of experts are brought together from within ERS, that is "customized," to fit the task at hand. The requests take a variety of forms—formal and informal. Some formal agreements come with funding to cover ERS' costs, others do not. The purpose of many projects is to serve the USDA program agencies by providing social science expertise on current issues they face. The diversity and depth of technical skills among ERS social scientists give ERS its uniqueness within USDA. Generally, USDA program agencies cannot efficiently employ a staff of social scientists with sufficient breadth of coverage to address the varied issues on an ongoing basis and, therefore, they request ERS' services as the need arises. Other projects involve

cooperating in collaborative efforts of several organizational units across government. At one recent point in time, ERS was engaged in 52 formal agreements and 64 informal agreements. This is in addition to the steady stream of requests from the General Accounting Office to provide analysis in support of its efforts to serve the needs of Congress.

The service ERS is providing in these collaborative efforts provides ERS with a more comprehensive understanding of the issues. Consequently, it enhances our ability to relate research and analysis findings to policy issues. Following are varied examples of the types of cooperative services ERS has recently provided or is currently providing.

The National Initiative on Rural America

USDA has responsibility for coordinating Federal rural development efforts, and ERS regularly provides technical assistance to program agencies with rural development responsibilities. Such is the case for the latest significant rural development activity, the National Initiative on Rural America (NIRA). The NIRA is a government-wide effort, established in 1990, to build collaborative partnerships among parties at all levels of government and the private sector to pursue rural development in new, strategic, and innovative ways. The two basic arenas within the NIRA are the State Rural Development Councils and the national support structure in Washington, D.C.

ERS staff regularly provide information directly to State councils and to the national support structure. For example, ERS staff have been involved in strategic planning sessions with State

councils to provide a national perspective in which to view the rural development issues of individual States. In August 1992, ERS signed an agreement to formalize and increase its involvement with the NIRA. ERS now handles operational funding for many of the councils through its cooperative agreement authority. As part of its new role, ERS has increased its assistance to the State councils and will also enlist instate experts in the effort through cooperative agreements.

Food Safety and Nutrition Labeling

ERS has supported a small staff of experts in the economics of foodborne disease for more than a decade. Because of the growing importance of this issue and the issue of pesticide residues in our food supply, ERS resources dedicated to the food safety area have increased over time. ERS is engaged in two major collaborative efforts. The first involves providing USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), the agency responsible for the safety of our food system, with analytical support as requested. ERS-provided support to FSIS has included analysis of nutrition labeling and analyzing the costs of contamination of food with the bacteria *E. coli*. Similar illness cost calculations produced by ERS were used in the decision to permit irradiation of poultry.

The second effort is to develop a data base on pesticide use and residues. ERS is cooperating in the development of the Pesticide Data Program with three other USDA agencies—the Agricultural Marketing Service, the National Agricultural Statistics Service, and the Human Nutrition Information Service. Although public concern

over pesticides is high, very limited comprehensive information exists on either the use of chemicals by producers and processors of food or on the pesticide residues in food at the retail level. The Pesticide Data Program is designed to fill that void. The data will be used to help determine risk assessments and set pesticide tolerances. Government agencies will then be able to respond more quickly and effectively to food safety concerns. In addition to ERS' role in the cooperative development of the data base, ERS has responsibility to estimate the economic impacts of alternative pest management practices. For example, an early analysis of lettuce production revealed that chemical use is widespread, but few lettuce samples were found to contain pesticide residues and most of those were below allowable limits.

Water Quality

ERS' program has, for some time, included analysis of the demand for water as an input into agricultural production and the resulting spillover effects of agriculture on water quality. Consequently, ERS has several major responsibilities under a USDA-wide Water Quality Program. One of the responsibilities is to build a data base on farm practices associated with water quality, such as pesticide and fertilizer use and tillage practices. ERS and NASS staff cochair the Database and Evaluation Committee which includes representatives from eight other USDA agencies, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Complementing the data base work is the responsibility to conduct economic and environmental assessments. The initial report prepared under this project analyzed the effects of cotton production practices on

water quality. The report pointed to the importance of implementing controls which are targeted, based on both production acreage and specific chemicals, rather than generic control policies. ERS is also an active participant in the Education and Technical/Financial Assistance Committee of USDA's Water Quality Demonstration Projects. The committee is responsible for evaluating new farming practices and technology being developed by the Soil Conservation Service and the Extension Service.

Analysis of Trade Agreements

The United States is the world's largest exporter of agricultural commodities, and agriculture makes a positive contribution to the U.S. trade balance. Because ERS is the major source of agricultural policy and market analysis on foreign countries, ERS staff have provided strategic support to USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, the Secretary of Agriculture, the U.S. Trade Representative, and the White House staff during bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations.


For the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) negotiations, ERS staff participated in the design of several rules contained in the Dunkel negotiating text for agriculture; served as technical advisors at negotiations in Brussels, Tokyo, and Geneva; and evaluated more than a dozen proposals submitted by foreign countries. ERS provided critical briefing material via direct phone link to U.S. negotiators in bilateral negotiations with the European Community. ERS-prepared briefing materials were instrumental in explaining USDA positions to the White House and members of the Trade Policy Staff Committee. ERS analysis has played a similar role in the negotiation process of the bilateral U.S.-Canada Free Trade

Agreement and the negotiation of moving toward freer trade with Mexico. For the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Task Force on Mexico, ERS assessed the cost and benefits of alternative provisions for 31 commodities and how NAFTA could affect U.S. States and regions, the environment, farm workers, and food safety.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

ERS represents USDA and the U.S. Government on issues related to agriculture and rural development at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), including serving in the leadership roles for the U.S. delegation in those areas. ERS carries out this work in collaboration with many other governmental units, including USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service and the Office of International Cooperation and Development, the U.S. Trade Representative, and the U.S. Departments of State, Treasury, and Commerce.

The OECD's Directorate for Food, Agriculture, and Fisheries has responsibility for the OECD agricultural agenda. The United States and other OECD member countries of the Committee for Agriculture guide and approve the work program of the directorate and debate and approve official output related to agriculture. The agriculture directorate's work and, hence, ERS input include cross-cutting or related subject areas such as trade, the environment, rural development, and challenges of the former Soviet Union countries. ERS played a major role in establishing a separate OECD rural development program and in helping the program develop a cross-national framework. ERS staff hold several leadership positions on OECD committees, including vice-chairperson of the Committee for



Agriculture, chairperson of the Group of the Council on Rural Development, and chairperson of the group on meats and dairy products.

International Food Aid and Technical Assistance

ERS analyzes the immediate food aid requirements in Africa and other shortage areas and long-term impediments to adequate nutrition. The information is available to USDA as it allocates P.L. 480 food aid, to Congress as it considers overall aid funding, and to the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) as it develops technical assistance programs. ERS staff also participate in technical assistance programs. In 1992-93, ERS staff have cooperated in technical assistance projects in Nicaragua, Indonesia, Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, Sudan, Zambia, and Lesotho and provided basic analytic input to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. ERS also conducts an annual course on agricultural price analysis for policymakers from developing countries.

ERS' expertise on agricultural policy reform and technical assistance has increasingly focused on the former Soviet republics and East and Central Europe. With the breakup of the Soviet Union, ERS analysis was available to the National Security Council through USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service and the Secretary of Agriculture's office. ERS analysis helped to focus policy attention on the need for basic reform of the republics' institutions and legal structures. ERS works closely with AID officials and the ministries of agriculture in Poland, Bulgaria, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Hungary to create the institutions necessary to provide economic analysis and forecasting needed by both public and private sector decisionmakers. ERS coordinates

with the other USDA agencies (NASS, AMS, and ES) involved in the East and Central Europe project to ensure that our joint efforts lead to coherent, comprehensive information systems in those countries.

Trade and the Environment

ERS participates in a USDA Committee on Trade and the Environment, which is led by FAS. This committee helps formulate USDA positions on trade and environmental policy issues at the interagency level. The interagency committees from across the U.S. Government jointly formulate U.S. policy options to be considered for U.S. GATT negotiations and OECD debates, and are producing a trade and environmental policy options paper in response to a Presidential Review Directive.

ERS is represented on the committee because of its analysis of the relationships between trade, trade policies, and environmental quality. Other relevant research in progress includes analyzing the implications of using trade measures as tools of global environmental policy and the implications of environmental policy and regulation for agricultural trade and global competitiveness.

U.S. Competitiveness and Grain Quality

The 1990 farm legislation directed USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) to study the costs and benefits of cleaning grain for export to determine whether U.S. grades and standards should be changed to encourage cleaning. Since a traditional part of ERS' program is tracking market conditions for U.S. agricultural commodities and documenting the factors affecting the international demand for U.S.-produced commodities, FGIS contracted with

ERS to coordinate the mandated studies. ERS has examined domestic cleaning costs and domestic benefits, such as premiums for cleaner wheat and transportation savings, through a series of cooperative studies with universities and the National Grain and Feed Association. The domestic studies have been supplemented by ERS interviews with government grain office staff members, millers, and traders in 22 countries to determine the factors that importers considered in choosing suppliers. When the project is complete, overview reports and country case studies for wheat, corn, and soybeans, and detailed domestic and international reports for each commodity will be produced. Preliminary results for wheat indicate that price and intrinsic quality characteristics, such as protein and test weight, are more important than cleanliness to most buyers.

ERS is also one of nine agencies serving on USDA's Committee on Grain Quality, which was mandated by the 1990 farm legislation. The committee conducts comprehensive reviews of programs and activities related to grain within USDA and determines whether the activities are consistent with the laws relating to grain quality and competitiveness.

USDA Baseline Projections

USDA prepares longrun projections for the agricultural sector twice a year, timed to coincide with USDA's input to the President's budget and Mid-Session Review projections. The baseline represents USDA's consensus on a longrun scenario through the year 2005. The baseline projections are made by interagency committees in USDA using model projections and judgmental analysis. ERS has a critical role in the USDA baseline. ERS develops supporting analytical

models for all parts of the baseline and has the lead role in preparing the *USDA Baseline Projections* report. ERS analysts participate in the primary interagency baseline discussions which focus on 5-year, budget-horizon estimates for program commodities that have budget implications. ERS then extends the projections horizon to the year 2005 and expands the projections coverage to non-program commodities and aggregate indicators to give the baseline a comprehensive, longrun view of the sector. This expanded coverage includes projections for the macroeconomic variables, costs of production, program commodities beyond the 5-year budget horizon, livestock, fruits and vegetables, foreign countries and trade, farm income, land values, and food prices.

Longrun baseline projections are used in USDA as an information base regarding the future to support ongoing USDA activities such as

budget projections supplied to the Office of Management and Budget and farm program administration and management. The Farmers Home Administration, for example, uses baseline projections to support its loan servicing programs, and the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation uses baseline projections in its price selection determination. The baseline also establishes a point of departure for discussion of alternative policy scenarios.

Endangered Species

ERS maintains economic expertise in the links between agriculture and the environment, including expertise in valuing nonmarket goods and services. ERS has been asked by the Secretary of Agriculture to become involved in several activities relating to the implementation of the Endangered Species Act and to serve on the Secretary's Committee on

Endangered Species with five other USDA agencies. The committee advises the Office of the Secretary on policy issues related to endangered species, especially regarding EPA's pesticide policies.

ERS' analysis of endangered species issues has included the competition between timber harvest and the northern spotted owl and currently includes the issue of the competition between agriculture and salmon species. ERS is analyzing the economic impacts of classifying the sockeye salmon and other salmon species of the Columbia and Snake Rivers as endangered or threatened. The analysis is being conducted in collaboration with AMS and SCS. The effort will rely heavily on existing research and input from other agencies, including the Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Bonneville Power Administration, and National Marine Fisheries Service.

ERS Special Merit Awards

The ERS Administrator's 14th Annual Special Merit Awards Ceremony was held on April 6. The annual program recognizes individuals and groups for significant contributions to achieving the mission of ERS. John Lee presented 12 individual awards, 3 team awards, and 5 group awards.

The awardees are Lorna Aldrich, for outstanding leadership of CED's staff work in the commodity regulatory review, labeling, and nutrition areas; Susan Bentley and Linda Calvin, for initiative and leadership on the ERS Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee; Denice Bess, for outstanding leadership, innovation, counsel, and service to the ERS professional support staff; Gwendolyn Coleman, for providing exemplary support to

the Finance and Development Policy Branch; Daniel Deprey, for sustained excellence in design, development, and support of ERS information systems; John Dunmore, for sustained outstanding contributions to the management of the programs of the Agriculture and Trade Analysis Division and of ERS; Jenny Gonzales, in recognition of high quality data base coordination; Noel Gollehon, Marca Weinberg, Marcel Aillery, Michael Moore, and Glenn Schaible, for outstanding sustained effort on analysis relating to western water policy and the California drought; Verner Grise, for superior situation and outlook analysis of the tobacco sector in the United States; John Baumgartner, Kenneth Kaluzienski, Barbara Hollis, and Tammy McCauley, for excellence in

the design, installation, and support of local area networks in ERS; Michael Herlihy, David Kelch, Robert Koopman, Mary Lisa Madell, Stephen Magiera, Mary Anne Normile, Daniel Plunkett, Ann Seitzinger-Hillberg, and Gene Hasha, in recognition of sustained superior performance in the preparation and presentation of the EC-GATT analysis task force briefing book used by U.S. negotiators; Alden Manchester, for major contributions to public understanding of changes in food marketing in the United States since World War II; Ralph Monaco, for superior management of ERS macroeconomic work; Albert Reed, for "Expectations, Demand Shifts, and Milk Supply Response," selected as the best article in *The Journal of Agricultural Economics*

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Research, 1992; **Marc Ribaud** and **Daniel Hellerstein**, for outstanding contributions in the field of environmental valuation; **Linda Scott**, for creative and well-organized support and insightful leadership related to the production of the 1992 *Global Food Assessment* report; **Abebayehu Tegene** and **Frederick Kuchler**, for sustained outstanding research assessing impacts of agricultural policies on farmland values; **Leslie Whitener**, **Harry Vroomen**, and **James**

Duffield, for excellence in conducting a program of service work and technical assistance relating to the effects of immigration reform on U.S. agriculture; **Edward Allen**, **Linda Bailey**, **Lee Christensen**, **Nancy Cochrane**, **Stan Daberkow**, **Linwood Hoffman**, **Roger Hoskin**, **Jason Lamb**, **Ronald Lord**, **John Love**, **Mark Lundell**, **Robert Koopman**, **James Miller**, **Praveen Dixit**, **Robert Reinsel**, **Sara Schwartz**, **Shayle Shagam**, **Mathew**

Shane, **Jerry Sharples**, **David Stallings** (WAOB), **Mark Weimar**, **Gene Wunderlich**, and **Edwin Young**, for outstanding team and individual effort in developing and implementing the Eastern European situation and outlook and policy analysis programs; and, last but not least, **Keith Collins** (EAS), for immeasurably enhancing the effectiveness of the Economic Research Service in achieving its mission by improving its linkage to the policymaking process.

Personnel Notes

Daberkow Is RTD Situation and Outlook Coordinator

Stan Daberkow has been named agricultural resources situation and outlook coordinator, Resources and Technology Division. He is coordinating the current information dissemination activities within RTD, which includes the publication of the *Agricultural Resources Situation and Outlook Reports* and *RTD Updates*.

Daberkow joined ERS' Economic Development Division in 1969. He transferred to a field assignment at

the University of California-Davis, where he worked on rural development and rural health issues. Daberkow returned to Washington in 1976. He subsequently joined RTD as leader of the Inputs Supply and Demand Section.

His most recent work has focused on the production, consumption, prices, and trade of agricultural inputs, as well as analyses of agricultural production practices linked to water quality and food safety concerns. Over the last 2 years, he has participated in ERS' Eastern European project to

establish an inputs situation and outlook report in Poland.

Daberkow was a Congressional LEGIS Fellow in the office of Senator Tom Harkin during the 1990 farm bill debate. He is among those who recently received the ERS Administrator's Special Merit Award for work on the Eastern European project.

Daberkow has a B.S. from the University of Nebraska, an M.S. in agricultural economics from Iowa State University, and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of California-Davis.